



## ESSENTIAL LEARNING FOR FIREFLIES: 4 YEAR OLDS

At the end of Fireflies, students should be able to demonstrate mastery of the following material:

*The mission of San Jose Christian School is to advance the kingdom of God by providing exceptional teaching and curriculum fully integrated with Biblical perspective. Within our Christian community we live to engage and transform culture for Jesus Christ.*

### OVERVIEW

Children graduating from the Firefly class are ready to transition into kindergarten or junior kindergarten environments, with a strong sense of identity, increasing independence, and curiosity for learning. These children demonstrate growing emotional resilience, social awareness, and problem-solving abilities. They use expressive language to ask questions, narrate stories, and collaborate with peers. Children are confident in managing their personal care and understanding daily routines. Their experience in this mixed-age setting prepares them to adapt, lead, and participate in diverse learning experiences.

### SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Understands and communicates own feelings and respects others' emotions
- Uses negotiation and compromise during peer interactions
- Demonstrates leadership during group play and classroom routines
- Shows initiative and confidence in choosing activities and asking for help

### LANGUAGE & LITERACY

- Speaks clearly and uses rich vocabulary to express ideas
- Engages in storytelling and dramatic play with others
- Asks and answers open-ended questions
- Understands and uses positional words, sequencing, and descriptive language

### COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

- Recognizes patterns, counts with one-to-one correspondence, and sorts objects
- Begins to identify letters, numbers, and symbols in the environment
- Able to plan play scenarios, and solve social or material challenges creatively
- Understands classroom rules and routines, and anticipates transitions

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Jumps, hops, and pedals tricycles with confidence
- Demonstrates pencil grip and control when drawing or writing
- Cuts along lines and manipulates a variety of tools with purpose
- Participates in group games with rules (e.g., Freeze Dance, obstacle courses)

## SELF-HELP & LIFE SKILLS

- Uses the restroom with independence or signals for support when needed
- Takes responsibility for belongings and daily routines (e.g., lunch, cleanup)
- Practices self-regulation strategies (e.g., deep breaths, waiting for turns)
- Prepares for transitions and adapts to changes in routine

## INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN VALUES

As children approach kindergarten, faith-based learning gently builds on earlier experiences. They participate in group prayer, act out stories of kindness and courage from the Bible, and reflect on how they can show God's love in everyday actions. These lessons remain developmentally appropriate and focused on heart-centered values, and NOT theological doctrine.

## TOILET TRAINING

As children prepare for kindergarten, they are fully potty-trained. While teachers continue to reinforce independent toileting skills and self-care routines, with understanding.